

M/047/0ZZ

County signs 5-year agreement for asphalt

Uintah County signed a five-year contract with Rock Asphalt Company for a minimum of \$1,500 a year for access to a tar sands reserve located about 10 miles south of Davis.

The location of the native asphalt is State School Section 36, three-fourths of a mile west of the Green River Bridge.

Uintah County will continue to use its present source of native asphalt, Asphalt Ridge, but will develop the Green River site over time. Findings reported last December of four test holes, showed an ample supply of road

material — it was just a little harder to mine. Commissioner Glen McKee said the preliminary indications show that at 40 to 140 foot levels, there are rich reserves asphalt. Commissioner McKee was not present at Tuesday's approval of the contract with Rock Asphalt. He was in Salt Lake City at the Federal Western Lands Conference.

Kimball Young, Rock Asphalt Company, said the agreement would allow him to maintain his lease of the school section.

"Under the contract we won't lose access to the reserve and will have an alternative if the present reserve

runs short," said Commissioner Lorin Merrell.

"It will give us the opportunity to find out what it will cost to develop the site," said Commissioner Max Adams.

A plentiful, inexpensive supply of native asphalt, has made Uintah County one of the most paved rural counties in the state. The county paves an average of eight miles a year and it does it at one-third the cost of other counties, said Young. Next year the county has plans to pave up to 20 miles of road.

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"A rich supply of asphalt is only half the reason for our excellent road program," said Commissioner Merrell. "We have the best road crew and equipment of any in the state."

Last November Young proposed that the Special Service District develop his site which has 11 million tons of tar sands. He proposed to supply native asphalt ready to use at \$7.25 a ton. Over a ten-year period the investment for the county would be \$3 million. The Green River location will be closer to such future road projects as Glen Bench or Seep Ridge.